

Imperial Palace Hosts Automotive Journalists



Ed Crispell, right, presents a "Moto" Award to Walter Haessner, at the Second Annual Automotive Journalism Conference at the Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino, recently. Crispell is Executive Director of Hotel Operations.

The Second Annual Automotive Journalism Conference was hosted, recently, by the Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. Seminars included Photography, Copyrighting, and Contracts, and Computers. Other industry-related seminars included "Current Auto Trends" presented by Pontiac Motor Division of GM and "4x4's" presented by American Motors Corporation. Developments in commercial trucks were discussed by representatives of FWD Corporation. Other topics were Street-rods and Modifieds, Racing, Collectible Autos, and application of video to automotive journalism.

Keynote speaker at the Awards Banquet was two-time Indianapolis 500 winner Roger Ward who told of his exciting life in the heady world of Indy car racing. Ward's appearance was courtesy of the International Society for Vehicle Preservation which is based in Tucson, AZ.

Forty-one "Moto" Awards were given to recognize excellence in automotive journalism in magazines, newspapers, newsletters, books, film/TV/radio, and public relations material. The "Moto" is a replica of an antique car moto-meter and is specially crafted for the annual Automotive Journalism Conference. Entrants had submitted their work prior to the conference for judging by a panel of experts in each category.

Conferees toured the Imperial Palace Antique and Classic Auto Collection, one of the world's largest private collections. They also toured the Restoration/Body Shop where newly purchased cars are prepared for the Collection. More than 200 vintage autos are on display daily in the Auto Collection, located on the fifth floor of the hotel's parking facility.

This was the second time Ralph Engelstad, President and owner of the Imperial Palace, hosted the national conference of automotive journalists. One hundred twenty-four attended, which was an increase of 50% over 1984. Plans are underway for the 1986 conference. Also set for the Imperial Palace, the Third Annual Conference will be December 3rd and 4th, with registration set on December 2nd, 1986. Attendees from the first two conferences will automatically receive registration information and submission forms for "Moto" Awards in mid-1986. Others interested in attending can receive information on the conference by calling the Imperial Palace at (800) 351-7400.

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Arthur Gelbrun, Israeli composer-conductor, died at the age of 72. Gelbrun was educated in Warsaw, Rome and Siena and came to Israel in 1949. He had worked with the Israel Radio and Haifa symphony orchestras, as well as with numerous orchestras abroad. He won several prizes for his compositions, which included symphonies, ballet suites and chamber music.

Bobby Vinton And The Smothers Brothers Now At The D.I.

Now appearing on the Desert Inn's Crystal Room stage are Bobby Vinton and the Smothers Brothers through January 15.

Tom and Dick Smothers developed an interest in music while in high school in California and devised the basis for their musical comedy act, the Smothers Brothers, during college at San Jose State.

Their first professional engagement came in 1959 at San Francisco's famed Purple Onion. It was here that the Smothers recorded their first of 10 albums (three albums became gold records).

Following their success at the Purple Onion, the Smothers Brothers embarked on a series of nightclub bookings and college concerts across the country.

The "Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour" was their reward and aired on CBS for three seasons.

Initiated as a mid-season replacement, the Smothers' show quickly evolved into the most controversial series on television. It was abruptly canceled in 1969 over CBS' censorship of the Smothers' frank and topical satire. A breach of contract suit was filed against CBS, and in January of 1973, an eight-week trial ended in victory for the two brothers.

More mature and with largely altered material, they returned to dinner theaters, nightclubs, college campuses and NBC-TV in 1974 with a new "Smothers Brothers Show." They also resumed appearances in Lake Tahoe, Reno and Las Vegas.

While on the "Tonight Show" in 1976, the Brothers announced their plans to retire their 18-year act. Both continued to work separately, each involved in his own interests.

Their retirement was short-lived as they re-teamed in 1978 to make their Broadway debut in the musical comedy, "I Love My Wife." They ran on Broadway for one year before taking the show on tour.

The Smothers also made a "Movie Of The

Week" entitled "Fitz & Bones" and have returned to the stages of Las Vegas. In 1983, they joined forces with Joan Rivers and Jim Stafford for the national tour of an "Evening of Comedy."

The end of 1983 marked the 25th anniversary of the Smothers Brothers, who celebrated by hosting NBC's "Saturday Night Live."

Bobby Vinton and the Smothers Brothers will

West Bank Arabs Prevented From Visiting Arafat

JERUSALEM (WNS) — A group of Palestinians who said they wanted to persuade Yasir Arafat to accept United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, were refused permission by the West Bank military government to go to Jordan to meet the PLO chief.

appear nightly except Monday in the Desert Inn's Crystal Room. For reservations, call 733-4566.

Several Knesset members were critical of the refusal, among them Abba Eban, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. One of the group, Hanna Seniora, editor of the East Jerusalem Arabic newspaper Al-Fajr, charged that the Israeli authorities "do not want us to make progress toward peace." According to some sources, however, the ban does not apply to Seniora.

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